

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 2, 2003
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Commissioners Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore, Chair, present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Bates, 1000 NW 13th Place, Vancouver, presented a handout to the Board. Mr. Bates talked about concerns regarding a home located at 1101 NW 109th Street, which is being used to house sex offenders. He said there are ten offenders currently housed there, but he believes there have been as many as twelve. He said that six of them are level 3 sex offenders, which means they are expected to re-offend; one is a level 2; and there are a couple of other people, one of whom is mentally handicapped. He said the home is owned by Kathleen Cook, who is renting the rooms for \$350 per person and is garnering as much as \$3,000 per month. Mr. Bates said he understands that per the County there is a law that limits the number of unrelated parties that may exist in a single-family residence. Bates said he has contacted the probation officer, who is concerned about the unhappiness of the neighbors. He has also been in contact with Code Enforcement, but was told that Ms. Cook could put as many people in her house as she wanted. Bates then referred to a law that prohibits felons from associating with one another; however, parole officers can choose to make an exception. He further explained. Bates read statements from the handout regarding an offender (Tika). Bates indicated that the City of Vancouver has passed some ordinances against this type of housing, but the County has nothing on the books. He said that currently the City has taken a stand to have no more than one offender within 1,000 feet of another.

Morris asked how many offenders there are and whether food is provided to them.

Bates replied that Ms. Cook provides nothing to them. He added that probation officers had initially stated that the offenders could be put together because it was a sort of halfway house. Bates said this is not a halfway house and that there is no supervision; they are simply allowed to live in mass in a three-bedroom home. Bates also added that it was thought that there were some code violations that if pursued would completely shut down the home.

Morris asked Mr. Bates if it is on a septic tank.

Bates said it is.

Morris asked how many people reside there.

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Bates said between 10-12.

Morris said that if Ms. Cook was receiving rent from that many people then she must have some sort of a business operating license.

Bates said that was not the case.

Morris asked if it is qualified as a boarding home.

Bates said no.

Morris asked if the Sheriff was aware.

Bates said yes.

Morris said there are probably a number of other avenues that are better to approach than the one *Bates* is suggesting. She said there are two schools of thought regarding sex offenders: the one that supports having offenders live collectively because it makes it much easier to keep tabs on them; and the other is that there's no reason to have people living so close together that they share ideas – this is the one the City has adopted and is her preference. She said they should pay attention to this matter.

Bates reiterated that they are housed in a group, which is unmonitored and without a program in place. He said they need to figure out how to deal with this problem. He said the state's representatives will be attending a meeting on October 1st.

Pridemore said this issue has come across their desks at various times and that it has become clear that nobody wants these offenders anywhere in their neighborhoods. He asked *Bates* if he would be proposing a solution for how the community can respond to the issue.

Bates said they would.

Morris stated that she would like to meet with *Bates* before he meets with the state legislators so that she could learn a bit more from him.

CONSENT AGENDA

Pridemore stated that there was a recommendation to amend item 11 to remove an appointment to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

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Stanton explained that the appointee had actually signed the letter accepting the appointment and that they could just amend the letter to make it a 2-year term.

Morris stated that the motion could reflect the change.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by *Morris* to approve items 1 through 11, noting that number 11 has been amended to read "...beginning 8/1/03 and ending 7/31/05."

Commissioners Pridemore, *Morris*, and *Stanton* voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 36)

PUBLIC HEARING: SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

Held a public hearing to consider approval of adjustments to the 2003-2004 adopted biennial budget in the amount of \$2,450,156.

Jim Dickman, Office of Budget, presented. He explained that this is a special supplemental, which is a single item for the Department of Community Services – a request to receive and expend approximately \$2.4 million of monies to upgrade or replace the existing software for client tracking. He further explained that there is no general fund being requested and that funding was through the Washington State Rural Consortium, which puts on the books what has already been previously approved by the Board in order to move forward with the contract.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by *Stanton* to approve Resolution 2003-09-01. Commissioners Pridemore, *Morris*, and *Stanton* voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 36)

The Board of County Commissioners' hearing adjourned and reconvened as the Board of Health.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by *Morris* to approve items 1 through 2. Commissioners Pridemore, *Morris* and *Stanton* voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 36)

Hearing adjourned.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Craig A. Pridemore/s/
Craig A. Pridemore, Chair

Betty Sue Morris/s/
Betty Sue Morris, Commissioner

Judie Stanton, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Louise Richards/s/
Clerk of the Board

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